

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (canceled)
2. (canceled)
3. (currently amended) Fluid separating device, comprising:  
a lower section with a fluid feeding device and a liquid discharging device,  
an upper section with a fluid feeding device and a gas discharging device,  
a contact device, which is provided such that gas rising from the lower section into the  
upper section is contacted with liquid which sinks from the upper section into the lower  
section, and  
a measuring device for determining the amount of liquid in the lower section and/or for  
determining alterations of the amount of liquid,  
wherein the contact device comprises a sponge-like and/or porous material, and  
Fluid separating device according to claim 2, in which wherein the contact device  
essentially occupies the complete lower section.
4. (currently amended) Fluid separating device, comprising:  
a lower section with a fluid feeding device and a liquid discharging device,  
an upper section with a fluid feeding device and a gas discharging device,

a contact device, which is provided such that gas rising from the lower section into the upper section is contacted with liquid which sinks from the upper section into the lower section, and

a measuring device for determining the amount of liquid in the lower section and/or for determining alterations of the amount of liquid,

wherein the contact device comprises a sponge-like and/or porous material, and

Fluid separating device according to claim 2, in which wherein the contact device comprises at least one bottom opening and at least one overflow pipe.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) Fluid separating device, comprising:

a lower section with a fluid feeding device and a liquid discharging device,

an upper section with a fluid feeding device and a gas discharging device,

a contact device, which is provided such that gas rising from the lower section into the upper section is contacted with liquid which sinks from the upper section into the lower section, and

a measuring device for determining the amount of liquid in the lower section and/or for determining alterations of the amount of liquid,

wherein the contact device comprises a sponge-like and/or porous material, and

Fluid separating device according to claim 2, further comprising a liquid feeding device ending in the lower section.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) Fluid separating device according to claim [[2]] 3, in which the upper section comprises means for avoiding a discharge of liquid through the gas discharging device of the upper section.
9. (canceled)
10. (previously presented) Fluid separating device according to claim 3, in which the contact device comprises at least one bottom opening and at least one overflow pipe.
11. (currently amended) Fluid separating device according to claim [[2]] 6, comprising a measuring device for determining the amount and/or the concentration of at least one liquid component.
12. (previously presented) Fluid separating device according to claim 3, comprising a measuring device for determining the amount and/or the concentration of at least one liquid component.
13. (previously presented) Fluid separating device according to claim 4, comprising a measuring device for determining the amount and/or the concentration of at least one liquid component.
14. (canceled)
15. (previously presented) Fluid separating device according to claim 3, comprising a liquid feeding device ending in the lower section.
16. (previously presented) Fluid separating device according to claim 4, comprising a liquid feeding device ending in the lower section.

17. (canceled)

18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) Fluid separating device according to claim 3, in which the upper section comprises means for condensing at least a part of gaseous components of the supplied fluid and/or evaporating at least a part of liquid components of the supplied fluid.

20. (previously presented) Fluid separating device according to claim 4, in which the upper section comprises means for condensing at least a part of gaseous components of the supplied fluid and/or evaporating at least a part of liquid components of the supplied fluid.

21. (previously presented) Fluid separating device according to claim 6, in which the upper section comprises means for condensing at least a part of gaseous components of the supplied fluid and/or evaporating at least a part of liquid components of the supplied fluid.

22. (previously presented) Fluid separating device according to claim 6, in which the upper section comprises means for avoiding a discharge of liquid through the gas discharging device of the upper section.

23. (currently amended) Fluid separating device according to claim [[7]] 4, in which the upper section comprises means for avoiding a discharge of liquid through the gas discharging device of the upper section.